

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AF-10 ARA-11 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 RSC-01

OIC-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 SCI-06 AID-20 HEW-08

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7963

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, WHO, KS, KN

SUBJECT: ROK REACTION TO NORTH KOREAN ADMISSION TO WHO

REF: SEOUL 3202

1. ROK VERNACULAR PRESS MAY 22 PUBLISHED FIRST EDITORIALS ON NORTH KOREAN ENTRY TO WHO. CHUNGANG ILBO AND KYONGHYANG SHINMUN ECHOED ROKG REGRET OVER NORTH KOREA'S ADMISSION AT THIS TIME AND POSSIBLE EFFECT ON SOUTH- NORTH KIALOGUE. ALSO EXPRESSED BELIEF NORTH KOREA'S SEEKING OF EQUAL STATUS IN THE UN IS JUST A SCHEME TO PERPETUATE THE DIVISION OF THE PENINSULA. KYONGHYANG EDITORIAL CLOSED WITH WARNING TO NORTH " NOT TO CLING TO ITS AGGRESSIVE POLICY" AGAINST THE SOUTH WHICH IT DESCRIBES AS OVERTHROW OF PRESENT STRUCTURE AND UNIFICATION UNDER COMMUNIST CONTROL.

2. TONGA ILBO FOLLOWED SAME GENERAL LINE AS ABOVE EDITORIALS BUT WENT ON TO INDICATE THAT NORTH KOREA'S ADMISSION CAME AS A SHOCK AND EXPLICITLY CALLED IT A BLOW
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TO ROK DIPLOMACY. TONGA ILBO CRITICIZED ROK AUTHORITIES FOR PLACING TOO MUCH CONFIDENCE IN THE UNSUCCESSFUL ARGUMENT THAT NORTH KOREA' S ADMISSION WOULD UNDERMINE THE PROGRESS OF THE SOUTH- NORTH DIALOGUE AND CALLED FOR THE AUTHORITIES TO TAKE " COURAGEOUS STEPS" IN THE ROK POLICY TOWARD THE UN.

3. INITIALLY, UNDER ROK CIA INSTRUCTIONS, THE WHO VOTE ON NORTH KOREA' S ADMISSION WAS REPORTED ONLY BRIEFLY AND FACTUALLY. WITH APPEARANCE OF EDITORIAL REACTION, IT APPEARS GOVERNMENT IS NOW PERMITTING LIMITED CONTROLLED COMMENT CRITICAL OF NORTH. PRESS REMAINS SILENT, HOWEVER, ABOUT WHAT KIND OF POLICY DIRECTION ROKG SHOULD NOW TAKE.

4. LIMITED COVERAGE AND EDITORIAL REACTION ON WHO DEFEAT STANDS IN NOTABLE CONTRAST TO FREEDOM GOVERNMENT HAS OBVIOUSLY ALLOWED PRESS IN TREATMENT OF GERMAN TREATY AND BREZHNEV VISIT, WHICH HAVE BEEN SUBJECTS OF HEADLINE STORIES AND EXTENSIVE EDITORIALS, INCLUDING SPECULATION ON LESSONS ROK SHOULD LEARN FROM GERMAN EXPERIENCE. HABIB

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